

DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
ANCHORAGE WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY

I. Decision:

It is my decision to authorize a twenty-five year renewable lease to the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) for the operation of the Eagle River Wastewater Treatment Facility (ERWTF), pursuant to the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act of 1926, as amended. The leasehold will be subject to stipulations for R&PP Act leases (See Stipulations). The area to be included in the leasehold is the proposed lease boundary for the Eagle River Wastewater Facility Site, located within the Seward Meridian, T. 14 N., R. 2 W., Section 11, NW¼ as depicted on the Map and Preliminary Metes and Bounds Description, dated October 7, 2002. To accommodate its internal communications system, AWWU is authorized to build and maintain an 80 foot monopole communications tower within the leasehold.

It is my decision to reject AWWU's application for a second parcel of land for an easement for a sewage pipeline outside of the leasehold boundary.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The lands described in the application are included in the Alaska Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan (MFP), dated March 1980. Objective Number L-1 of the MFP states the BLM intends to "Satisfy state and local government needs as well as public and/or private demonstrated needs for land as they arise."

Issuance of this lease will authorize AWWU to continue to operate the ERWTF that provides sewage treatment services to the communities of Eagle River and Chugiak. This decision to allow issuance of a lease does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

R&PP Act regulations at Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations §2740.0-6(d), state that "uses which can be more appropriately authorized under other existing authorities shall not be authorized under this act." AWWU's application for a sewer line easement meets the criteria to be authorized as a right-of-way under the authority of Section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. Therefore, AWWU needs to apply for a separate right-of-way for the portion of the sewer line outside of the treatment plant lease boundary.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The decision will not significantly restrict subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of subsistence resources, alter the distribution of subsistence resources, or limit subsistence user access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

VI. Monitoring:

Bureau of Land Management staff from the Anchorage Field Office will monitor the leasehold every five years to assure AWWU complies with the terms of the lease agreement.

June Bailey, Acting
Anchorage Field Manager

12-02-02
Date

1 Attachment:

Stipulations (2 pp)